

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A siderail assembly for a bed which comprises:
  - a siderail barrier pivotably movable into a first position in which it extends higher than a support surface of a bed and into a second position in which is no higher than level with the support surface of the bed;
  - a pair of support arms pivotally coupled between the siderail barrier and a bed frame;
  - a pair of linkage arms rigidly coupled to the pair of support arms;
  - a connection arm coupled between the pair of linkage arms; and
  - a latch mechanism coupled to one of the pair of linkage arms which can be engaged to secure the siderail barrier in the first position.
2. A siderail assembly for a bed according to claim 1 wherein the latch mechanism includes a pair of tabs which engage and support the connecting arm.
3. A siderail assembly for a bed according to claim 1, wherein the latch mechanism is spring biased.
4. A siderail assembly for a bed according to claim 3, wherein the latch mechanism is loosely attached to the one of the pair of linkage arms.
5. A siderail assembly according to claim 1, wherein the latch mechanism includes a flange by which it can be moved to be disengaged from the support connecting arm.
6. A caster assembly for a bed frame which comprises:
  - casters which are coupled to support shafts;
  - support bars which are rigidly attached to the support shafts and pivotally coupled to frame members of a bed frame; and
  - locking bars which are movable between:
    - a first position in which portions of the locking bars engage the support bars and lock the support shafts in a vertical position; and
    - a second position in which the locking bars are clear of the support bars so that the support shafts are free to pivot about the frame members.

7. A caster assembly according to claim 6, wherein each locking bar affects the engagement of support bars of a pair of the casters.

8. A caster assembly according to claim 6, wherein the support shafts include flanges which engage the frame members and limit the pivotal movement of the support bars.

9. A caster assembly according to claim 6, wherein the locking bars include pedals by which the locking bars can be pivoted between the first and second positions.

10. A method for attaching a caster a base frame of a bed, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mounting portion on the base frame, the mounting portion having at least two side walls configured to define an opening therebetween;

providing a caster including a wheel and a housing having a top surface located above the wheel;

securing an upstanding mounting plate to the top surface of the housing;

inserting the mounting plate into the opening in the mounting portion; and

securing the mounting plate to the mounting portion of the base frame.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the securing step includes the step of installing a fastener through one of the side walls to engage the mounting plate and secure the mounting plate and the caster to the base frame.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of providing a mounting portion on the base frame includes providing a leg having four side walls configured to provide a substantially square cross sectional shape.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the four side walls of the leg define a diagonal dimension, and the mounting plate has a width dimension substantially equal to the diagonal dimension to permit insertion of the mounting plate into the square-shaped leg aligned with the diagonal dimension.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of securing the upstanding mounting plate to the top surface of the housing includes the step of welding the mounting plate to the top surface.

15. A bed comprising:

a base frame including a mounting portion having at least two side walls configured to define an opening therebetween;

a caster including a wheel and a housing having a top surface located above the wheel;

an upstanding mounting plate coupled to the top surface of the housing, the mounting plate being configured to be inserted into the opening in the mounting portion; and

a fastener configured to secure the mounting plate to the mounting portion of the base frame.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the fastener extends through one of the side walls to engage the mounting plate and secure the mounting plate to the base frame.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the mounting portion on the base frame includes a leg having four side walls configured to provide a substantially square cross sectional shape.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the four side walls of the leg define a diagonal dimension, and the mounting plate has a width dimension substantially equal to the diagonal dimension to permit insertion of the mounting plate into the square-shaped leg aligned with the diagonal dimension.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the mounting plate is welded to the top surface of the caster housing.